

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preparing a peptide methyl ester~~ sequencing a peptide species, the method comprising:

providing a first solution comprising diazomethane and a solvent, wherein the solvent is miscible in water; and

mixing the first solution with a second solution, wherein the second solution is aqueous and comprises a peptide species, to thereby form a methyl ester of the peptide species; and sequencing the peptide species after formation of the methyl ester.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, acetonitrile, ethanolamine and triethanolamine.

11-25. (Canceled)